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A WORTHY SPEECH

Spoken in the Honourable Houſe

OF

COMMONS,

By Sir

Benjamin Rudyard.

This preſent *July*, 1642.

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A Speech ſpoken in the Houſe of Commons by Sir BENIAMIN RUDYARD. *July* 9. 1642.

MR SPEAKER,

IN the way we are, we have gone as farre as words can carry us: We have voted our own Rights, and the Kings Duty: No doubt there is a Relative Duty between a King and Subjects; Obedience from a Subject to a King, Protection from a King to His People. The preſent unhappie diſtance between His Majeſtie and the Parliament, makes the whole Kingdome

ſtand amazed, in a fearfull expectation of diſmall Calamities to fall upon it: It deeply and conſcionably concerns this Houſe to compoſe and ſettle theſe threatening ruining diſtractions. M. *Speaker*, I am touch'd, I am pier'd with an apprehenſion of the Honour of the Houſe, and ſucceſſe of this Parliament. The beſt way to give a ſtop to theſe deſperate, imminent miſchiefs is, To make a fair way for the Kings return hither; It will likewiſe give beſt ſatisfaction to the people, and will be our beſt Juſtification. M. *Speaker*, That we may the better conſider the condition we are now in, let us ſet our ſelves three Yeers back: If any man then, could have credibly told us, That within three Yeers the Queen ſhall be gone out of *England* into the Low-Countries, for any cauſe whatſoever, The King ſhall remove from his Parliament, from *York* to *London*, declaring himſelf not to be ſafe here, That there ſhall be a totall Rebellion in *Ireland*, Such diſcords and diſtempers both in Church and State here, as now we finde; certainly we ſhould have trembled at the thought of it: Wherefore it is fit we ſhould be ſenſible now we are in it.

On

On the other ſide, If any man then, could have crediblie told us, That within three Yeers ye ſhall have a Parliament, it would have been good News; That Ship-monie ſhall be taken away by an Act of Parliament, the Reaſons and Grounds of it ſo rooted out, as that neither it, nor any thing like it, can ever grow up again; That Monopolies, The high-Commiſsion Court, The Starre-Chamber, The Biſhops Votes ſhall be taken away, The Councell Table regulated and reſtrained, The Forreſts bounded and limitted, That ye ſhall have a Trienniall Parliament, and more then that, A Perpetuall Parliament, which none ſhall have power to diſſolve without your ſelves, we ſhould have thought this a dream of happineſſe; yet now we are in the reall poſſeſſion of it; we do not enjoy it, although His Majeſtie hath promiſed and publiſhed he will make all this good to us: We ſtand chiefly upon further ſecurity, whereas, the very having of theſe things, is a convenient, fair ſecuritie, mutually ſecuring one another: there is more ſecuritie offered, even in this laſt anſwer of the Kings, By removing

the perſonall Votes of Popiſh Lords, By the Better Education of Papiſts children, By ſupplying the defects of Laws againſt Recuſants, beſides what elſe may be enlarged and improved by a ſelect Committee of both Houſes, named for that purpoſe. Wherefore, Sir, let us beware we do not contend for ſuch a hazardous unſafe ſecuritie, as may endanger the loſſe of what we have already; let us not think we have nothing, becauſe we have not all we deſire; and though we had, yet we cannot make a Mathematicall ſecuritie; All humane Caution is Suſceptible of corruption and failing; Gods providence will not be bound, ſucceſſe muſt be his: He that obſerves the wind and rain, ſhall neither ſow nor reap; if he do nothing till he can ſecure the weather, he will have but an ill harveſt.

M. *Speaker*, It now behoves us to call up all the wiſedome we have about us, for we are at the very brink of Combuſtion and confuſion: If blood once begin to touch blood, we ſhall preſentlie fall into a certain miſerie, and muſt attend an uncertain ſucceſſe, God knows when, and God knows what. Every man

man here is bound in conſcience to employ his uttermoſt endeavours to prevent the effuſion of blood; blood is a crying ſin, it pollutes a Land; let us ſave our Liberties and our Eſtates, as we may ſave our Souls too. Now I have clearly delivered mine own coſcience, I leave every man freely to his.

FINIS.